



FEBRUARY 2011

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
BUREAU OF AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR**

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

HOW TO OBTAIN A BASIC AREA SMOG CHECK TECHNICIAN LICENSE

What is a Basic Area Smog Check Technician license?

A Basic Area technician license allows an individual to inspect, diagnose, adjust, repair and certify the emissions control systems on vehicles subject to the Basic Area Smog Check Program in attainment areas. The license is valid for two years in the Basic or Change of Ownership program areas of the state.

How do I apply?

The applicant must first complete and submit an application with a \$20 check or money order to:

Bureau of Automotive Repair
Licensing Unit
PO Box 989001
West Sacramento, CA 95798-9001

How do I qualify to take the Basic Area technician examination?

To qualify to take the examination, the applicant must provide proof of one of the following requirements:

1. Successful completion within the last 24 months of the Basic Clean Air Car Course or current, unexpired, Intern license; or
2. Possession of a valid and unexpired Intern technician license and one year of verifiable experience in the vehicle engine performance area after obtaining the Intern technician license.

AND

1. Completion of certification at a BAR certified school in the following areas: Electrical/Electronic Systems (A6), Engine Performance (A8), and Advanced Engine Performance (L1); or

2. Certification or a passing score from the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence in the certification categories of Electrical/Electronic Systems (A6) and Engine Performance (A8) and Advanced Engine Performance Specialist (L1).

AND

1. An initial applicant must provide proof of successful completion of a BAR-certified update training course.

BASIC EXAMINATION INFORMATION

Where can I take the courses required?

You can take the courses at any BAR-certified school. To view a list of these schools, please visit BAR's website at www.bar.ca.gov, and click on "Industry Resources", under the heading "Technician Resources".

What is an Update Training Course?

Update Training are "Continuing Education" courses (not more than 20 hours in length) targeting recent changes or advancements affecting testing to the Smog Check program.

After I submit my Smog Check technician license application, how do I know if I am approved to take the exam?

Once your application is processed by BAR's Licensing Unit, BAR's exam contractor, Psychological Systems, Inc., (PSI) will mail you a candidate bulletin that states you can contact the PSI help desk to schedule your exam.

Are there study materials for the exam?

Study materials are included in the Candidate Bulletin that PSI will mail to you, or you can visit BAR's Web site at www.smogcheck.ca.gov to download the Candidate Bulletin.

What happens when I pass my examination?

You will receive a pass report card and then PSI will mail you a wall/badge license with your picture on it. If you are ready to start work, call your local BAR field office three to five days after your examination date to obtain an "Access Code".

What happens if I fail my examination?

You will receive a fail report card and must wait 14 days before you call PSI to reschedule another exam (no fee is required if the exam is scheduled within 90 days of the receipt of the first exam eligibility by PSI). If you fail a second time, you can submit either your failed report card with a \$20 check or money order, or a new application with a \$20 check or money order to BAR's Licensing Unit at:

Bureau of Automotive Repair
P.O. Box 989001
West Sacramento, CA 95798

What do I need to do to renew my Smog Check technician license?

You may receive a courtesy renewal notice* approximately 120 days prior to your expiration date. You must complete the renewal notice, sign it, and submit a \$20 check or money order along with proof of successful completion of a BAR-certified update training course.

NOTE:

If you submit your renewal notice more than one year past your expiration date you will be required to re-take the examination.

*Please note: *License renewal is the responsibility of the applicant. All certifications and continuing education must be current for license to be renewed.*

Who to Contact

If you have any questions regarding requirements, please contact BAR's Licensing Unit at 916.255.3145 or www.barlicensinginfo.ca.gov or contact the Department of Consumer Affairs' Consumer Information Center at 800.952.5210. BAR forms and applications are available and can be downloaded by visiting www.smogcheck.ca.gov.